Petition against Domestic Violence Act

4145. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether legal fraternity has sent a petition to Government against the Domestic Violence Act opining that it is breaking families and marriages as an institution;

(b) if so, how many cases have been filed in Delhi till the 31st of December, 2007 and how many victims got justice and guilty were punished; and

(c) whether the information about this Act has percolated to women in rural areas as cases of actual abuse, threat of abuse physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic are very rampant there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per information maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, 102, 155 and 364 cases have been registered under the Act during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. In addition, Government has taken a number of steps to disseminate the provisions of the Act which include media campaigns, awareness generation camps and holding of workshops/seminars all over the country.

Barbarous behaviour with Anganwadi, ASHA and ANM workers

†4146. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that male police personnel and workers of a political party misbehaved and clashed with the workers of Anganwadis, ASHA and ANM when they were raising their demands before the Chief Minister of Punjab in Bhatinda on the 27th March, 2008;

(b) what are the demands of these workers and the Central Government's view thereon; and

(c) whether Government would give directions to State Government to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As reported by the Government of Punjab, on 27.3.2008, only Anganwadi workers and not ASHA and ANM workers raised anti Government slogans during the visit of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab at Bathinda. The policemen, lady police and women workers of Istri Akali Dal stopped them from shouting slogans with a view to maintain law and order. This resulted in a scuffle between them.

(b) Demand Charter submitted by the Anganwadi Mulazim Union Punjab is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as honorary workers from the local community

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development. Being honorary workers, they are paid monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2008-09 announced an increase in the honorarium from the existing Rs. 1000/- p.m. to Rs. 1500/- p.m. for AWWs and from Rs. 500/- p.m. to Rs. 750/- p.m. for AWHs.

The Government of India is fully conscious of the significance of the voluntary efforts of these honorary workers. Continuous efforts have therefore been made to improve their working conditions by extending facilities such as paid absence on maternity at par with organized sector, insurance cover under the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers, recruitment of 25% of Anganwadi Workers from Anganwadi Helpers etc.

On account of the nature of the role of AWWs and AWHs in the ICDS Scheme, it is not feasible to declare them as Government employees or extend the consequential benefits as admissible thereon.

(c) Law and order being a State subject, it is for the State Government concerned to consider appropriate action as per law.

Statement

Anganwadi Mulazim Union Punjab

Demand Charter—

1. ICDS Scheme may be converted into Government Department and the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers working under this scheme may be treated as Government employees and be covered under category of grade III and IV employees.
2. Till the implementation of the above demand the honorarium may be paid @ Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 2000/- per month for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers respectively. As per the Maharashtra Pattern pension @ Rs. 1000/- Rs. 500/- per month may be granted to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers respectively along with provision gratiuty *ex-gratia* and provident fund.
3. Honorarium for the additional work, taken from the Anganwadi Workers/Helpers other than ICDS, may be enhanced on the pattern of Uttarakhand @ Rs. 1500/- and 750/- respectively.
4. The benefits under the implemented insurance scheme may be provided to the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers from April, 2004.
5. Fixed TA/DA may be provided to the Anganwadi Workers/Helpers for attending circles meetings and other Government duties.
6. The ICDS projects being run by the Advisory Board and Child Welfare Council may be brought under ICDS Scheme.
7. Government buildings may be constructed for Anganwadi Centres. Presently the rent may be enhanced to Rs. 1000/- per month.
8. In order to solve the problems of Anganwadi Workers District Grievances Committees may be constituted at district level and the representatives of Union may be given representation in these committees.
9. As per Government of India's directions seats may be reserved for Anganwadi Workers in the post of ETT teachers and ANMs.

10. Anganwadi Workers/Helpers may be awarded maternity leave as per Punjab Government Women employees.

11. The vacant posts of supervisors may be filled as per seniority and decision of the Court.

12. The summer and winter vacations may be allowed in Anganwadi Centres as per other educational institutions.

13. The procedure to promote Anganwadi Helpers as Anganwadi Workers may be implemented.

14. Undue interference of the Panchayats and other local bodies in the name of monitoring of Anganwadi Centres may be stopped.

15. Arrangement of gas connection may be provided at AWCs for the preparation of Supplementary Nutrition.

Children on the footpaths

4147. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of United Nations about the children living on the footpaths in a large number of big metro cities and also in small towns of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether the number of orphans in the country has increased during the last three years;

(d) whether Government proposes to simplify the adoption law, to facilitate adoption of orphans; and

(e) if so, by when Government is likely to reframe such laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any recent report of United Nations about children living on footpaths in India. The Census data also does not have information on street children. However, it is known that a large number of children are living on streets in the country, UNICEF estimated 11 million street children in 1994.

(c) There is no Government data on number of orphans in the country.

(d) and (e) The legal adoption procedure of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children is very organized and structured and only agencies recognized by the State Governments can place children in adoption both in-country and inter-country. Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) is the only nodal agency at national level for adoption matters and issues guidelines for adoption from time to time. The procedures governing in-country adoption and inter-country adoption have been provided under "Guidelines for In-country Adoption 2004 and Guidelines Adoption from India 2006", respectively. These guidelines are subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 along with Model Rules 2007 under this Act, also aims to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework.